



## STATE OF MICHIGAN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# **Antrim County resumes inspection duties**

*Area lawmakers assist transition back to local control*

**LANSING** – Construction code inspections and enforcement in Antrim County will be back in the hands of local officials starting April 1, Sen. Jason Allen and Rep. Kevin Elsenheimer announced today.

The State Construction Code Commission voted Wednesday to authorize the Antrim County Construction Code Department to resume providing the service.

"We are very pleased with the outcome of the process," said Jack White, chairman of the Board of Commissioners. "It took eight and a half months, a few meetings and a lot of hard work for the state to trust that we can and will do the job properly. The assistance from Senator Allen, and recently-elected Kevin Elsenheimer was key in getting both sides to communicate effectively. We owe the two of them a big thank you!"

The state has been providing the inspection and enforcement service since July 15, 2004 as part of a settlement agreement between the State Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety and Antrim County. During that time, the County Construction Code Department has been drafting new policies and procedures, developing a new fee schedule, closing old permits, and conducting re-inspections on randomly selected projects, all to satisfy the requirements of the agreement.

"From the time I learned of this problem last year, my goal was to see the inspection services return to the county and ensure that the code was being properly enforced," said Allen, R-Traverse City. "I am pleased that Antrim County and the state have reached an agreement that achieves those goals, while upholding the safety and welfare of the public."

The County Construction Code Department is preparing for the April 1 handover of authority by hosting two contractors meetings to explain the changes, according to Construction Code Department Director Bob Massey. The meetings are scheduled for March 17 and 24 at the Senior Center in Bellaire at 5:30 p.m.

"New permit applications will be available at the meetings or at the Construction Code office," Massey said. "Eventually they will be available on the county Web site."

Contractors and homeowners with open permits who have received a letter from the department are reminded to contact the county regarding the status of their project. Closing all open permits is a requirement of the settlement agreement and will continue to be addressed until completion.

"Seeing that inspection duties return to local control in Antrim County was a top priority on my lawmaker to-do list," said Elsenheimer, R-Bellaire. "I was happy to help move the process along with Senator Allen to get the responsibilities back where they belong."

(More)

“Everyone did a great job to meet the state’s requirements and set up a new program that will ensure county residents are protected and well-served.”

Residents and contractors with questions may contact the Construction Code Department at (231) 533-8373.

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